



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Convicted of Shooting at Father and Brother During Argument on Christmas Eve - Stray Bullet Went Through Nearby Apartment Bedroom Window -

WASHINGTON – Eric Kennedy, also known as John Kennedy, 34, of Washington, D.C., has been convicted of charges stemming from an argument in which he fired gunshots at his father and brother, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Kennedy was convicted by a jury on July 11, 2011, following a trial in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The jury found him guilty of charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, possession of a firearm during a crime of violence, and other offenses. The Honorable Ronna L. Beck, who presided at the trial, scheduled sentencing for September 23, 2011. Under the court's voluntary sentencing guidelines, Kennedy faces up to nine years in prison.

According to the government's evidence, on December 24, 2010, Kennedy called his father and demanded to see him to discuss a family-related dispute. Kennedy told his father to meet him near the 1600 block of 16th Street SE. When Kennedy's father went to the location about 8:15 p.m., accompanied by the defendant's younger brother, an argument ensued.

During the argument, Kennedy, who was armed with a pistol, fired the gun several times in the direction of his father and brother. As his father and brother returned to their car, the defendant fired a final shot in their direction – hitting an adjacent apartment window. A resident was inside the apartment, preparing to wrap Christmas gifts, when the bullet traveled through a window frame, shattered the blinds, and ended up on the bedroom floor. No one was hurt.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen commended the efforts of those who worked on the case from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), including Detectives Robert Cephas and Marvin Washington; Crime Scene Officer Mark Dega; Officers Kevin Webster, Jewelia Long, Michael Minor and Thomas Sheehan, Sgt. Durriyyah Habeebullah and

Sgt. Jacob Lipscomb, and Daniel Barrett of the MPD Firearms Division. He also expressed appreciation to the people in the community who aided in the investigation of the case.

U.S. Attorney Machen also acknowledged those who worked on the case from the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Paralegal Jason Manuel; Legal Assistant Charmonique Price; Advocate Meshall Thomas, of the Victim Witness Assistance Unit; Sharon Johnson and Durand Odom of the Criminal Investigations and Intelligence Unit, and Intern Chelsea Conanan. He also praised the work of Assistant U.S. Attorney Mervin A. Bourne, Jr., who indicted and prosecuted the case.

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